



Washington State Commission on

Asian Pacific American Affairs

Leader in
ADVOCACY

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E-Newsletter

January 11, 2010

1. Message from the Executive Director

Happy New Year! An exciting year lies ahead of us, as this year marks the 36th year of the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA). In this time of reflection, it is important for us to reflect on the role of CAPAA and how it can serve the needs of our community. By law, the CAPAA acts as an advisory board to the Governor and as a liaison between state government and the community. It represents the Asian Pacific American community and is charged with the responsibility of articulating the concerns of our community and advocating for policies that address these concerns. CAPAA has a dual responsibility of not only informing and educating the community but listening to the wishes of our community.



Within my first 30 days, I conducted a statewide listening tour and had the opportunity to meet with many of our community members, leaders, non-profit organizations, corporations, and agencies serving the community. Some common themes emerged. The need for the Commission to increase its role as an informational resource; continue its work on the priority areas of education, health care, and economic development; and reach out to populations traditionally underrepresented.

Taking action on the community's feedback, the Commission is launching a new [Web site](#), an electronic newsletter, legislative update, and informational issue alerts. These new media tools will allow our community to stay informed, be better connected, gain a better understanding of avenues of access, and provide our diverse communities another means to share concerns. Educating our community on avenues of access is one way our agency is fulfilling its mission. Stay informed and connected by signing up for our [electronic updates](#).

The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs is here for you. Please continue to reach out to us for assistance and to share your concerns. We look forward to working with you.

2. Commission News

On December 12, 2009, the Commission on Asian Pacific American held a board meeting at the Wing Luke Asian Museum in King County. New commission members Albert Shen, Debadutta Dash, Sofia Aragon, Jeannie Lee joined Commissioners Sharma, Pascua, Takamura, Cha, Heyamoto, Pritchard, and Tran.

Among the many items discussed were the legislative priorities for this upcoming session, API Legislative

Day, achievement gap , and the pardon request for Many Uch. A member of the Governor's Policy Office provided information on the Governor's budget and highlighted policy issues impacting the Asian Pacific American community. Commissioners also presented updates on their work, outreach events, and issues in their counties.

[Learn more about the Commissioners.](#)



Bottom Row: Tanya Tran, Bee Cha, Jagdish Sharma, Frieda Takamura, Jeannie Lee
Not Pictured: Albert Shen

3. Committee Update

The 2009-2011 Strategic Plan for the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs focuses on three priority areas: education, health care, and economic development. Community involvement and participation on these important issues is vital to the well-being of our community.

Committee Chairs are currently seeking committee members who are interested in working on policy recommendations to address the concerns of the Asian Pacific American community. Monthly conference call meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month. Contact the Committee Chairs listed below for more information.

- Education: [Frieda Takamura](#)
- Health Care: [Lua Pritchard](#)
- Economic Development: [Debadutta Dash](#)

4. Legislative Session

On January 11, 2010, the legislative session begins. While this is a short session, you should be aware of many important bills impacting the Asian Pacific American community. Last month, the Commissioners outlined their [2010 legislative priorities](#) focusing on education, health care, economic development, and immigration.

You can receive information on highlighted bills impacting the Asian Pacific American community by

signing up for the Commission's [electronic legislative updates](#).

5. Spotlight Issue: 2010 Census

The census is important to the Asian Pacific American community because it directly affects how more than \$300 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to our communities for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, housing, transportation and much more. It also is used to apportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, redistrict state legislatures, and define school district assignment areas and other important areas of government.

The Census Bureau has acknowledged that Asian Americans have been undercounted in the past. Some of the factors associated with counting difficulties are language barriers and a reluctance of Asian immigrants to voluntarily provide personal information. It is important to understand that the information gathered for the Census is confidential and protected under federal law.

In March of 2010 census forms will be mailed or delivered to households. When you receive your form, just answer the 10 short questions and mail the form back. More information can be found by visiting the [2010 Census Web site](#).

6. Upcoming Events

Joint Ethnic Commission Legislative Reception - January 21, 2010

The annual ethnic commission legislative reception is scheduled for January 21, 2010 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Columbia Room on the capitol campus. The reception host is the Commission on Hispanic Affairs. Come meet state legislators and board members of the commissions.

API Legislative Day - February 4, 2010

Each year, members of the Asian Pacific American community converge on the state Capitol to voice their concerns. February 4, 2010 is API Legislative Day in Olympia, Washington. Find more information on our [events page](#).

More community events can be found on the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs [Web site](#). To submit an event, please contact us at 360.725.5666 or capaa@capaa.wa.gov.

CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

To receive more electronic updates, visit us at <http://www.capaa.wa.gov>.